



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



Spring Promise: Gambel's Quail and Beavertail Cactus © S. K. Schafer

Contact

Sharon K. Shafer
Skydance Studio

702.293.3929 - studio
702.293.3929 - fax
702.239.3673 - cell

skydancestudio@earthlink.net
www.skschaferart.com

Southern Nevada Artist/Naturalist Contributes to New York Exhibition

Sharon K. Schafer, an award-winning artist, naturalist, and native southern Nevadan, is providing an international audience with a glimpse into the Desert Southwest. Schafer's watercolor and gouache image, *Spring Promise: Gambel's Quail and Beavertail Cactus*, won a place within the New York State Museum's prestigious *Focus on Nature IX* exhibit in Albany, New York. *Focus on Nature* celebrates the highly accurate and purposeful, yet imaginative art form of wildlife illustration used in scientific study and communication.

This year's juried exhibition includes the work of 75 selected artists from 12 countries. Jurors base their selection on the degree of technical skill, aesthetic qualities, originality, and scientific accuracy of submissions.

Schafer opens windows into the Mojave Desert and other natural areas with her art. Bringing to light often overlooked beauty and revealing inaccessible hidden treasures, Schafer encourages a deeper appreciation of the natural world.

Regarding the subject matter of *Spring Promise*, Schafer explains, "Gambel's Quail are our most arid-adapted quail. The species survives by supplementing its diet with insects and succulent cactus fruit, specifically to obtain much needed water in our land of little rain."

Strangers to the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, however, are most surprised by the vivid colors of the piece, especially the magenta of the beavertail cactus blooms. The vibrancy is inconsistent with the notion of a dry, wind-chafed, and sun-baked desert. "This shift in perception is key to bringing about a sense of wonderment and concern for a rugged-seeming environment that is, in reality, beautiful and fragile." says Schafer.

Schafer resides in Boulder City, Nevada where she owns and operates Skydance Studio. She specializes in beautifully artistic yet scientifically accurate images that appeal to the art collector and the environmental educator alike. Her work reflects in-depth knowledge, obsessive attention to detail, and passion for educating and inspiring through art. Fittingly, Skydance Studio demonstrates and encourages value, protection, and conservation of the natural world in its products and operation.

Selections of Schafer's fine art will be available for sale in the upcoming "44th Art in the Park" festival in Boulder City on October 7 and 8. Learn more about the event at: www.artinthepark.org/

###